

REMARKS

The Applicant has now had an opportunity to carefully consider the comments set forth in the Office Action of March 10, 2004. The clarity of the Office Action is noted with appreciation. Amendment, reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

The Office Action

In the Office Action mailed March 10, 2004:

Claims 1-3, 11-14 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,466,799 to Torrey et al. ("Torrey");

Claims 4 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Torrey in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,526,403 to Tam ("Tam");

Claims 5 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Torrey in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,845,203 to LaDue ("LaDue");

Claims 6 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(e) as being unpatentable over Torrey in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,157,849 to Manning et al. ("Manning");

Claims 7, 8, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Torrey in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,259,905 to Berkowitz et al. ("Berkowitz"); and

Claims 9, 10, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Torrey in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,787,355 to Bannister et al. ("Bannister").

The Present Application

By way of brief review, the present application is directed toward methods and systems for providing communications connectivity to wireline phones through the services of a cellular handset or device. A converter unit contains a mobile converter unit and a landline interface unit. The mobile converter unit converts cellular signals from the cellular handset into land line signals understandable by, or needed by, the wireline devices. For example, the mobile converter converts alert, message waiting and call waiting cellular signals to ringing, message waiting and call waiting signals compatible with wireline phones. The landline interface unit converts signals generated by the wireline devices into those understood by the cellular handset. For example, the land line interface unit converts touch tone signals to dialed digit information, translates

flash signals and generates end of dial signals for the cellular handset. The land line interface unit also provides dial tone when a connected wireline device goes "off-hook".

The Cited References

The primary reference of the Office Action to Torrey allegedly discloses a communications premises station system for receiving a hand held wireless communications device, which communicates with a wireless network and has a premises station interface. The communications premises station system has one or more telephonic interfaces for communicating with one or more telephonic devices (e.g., telephones, facsimile machines, computers). When the hand held wireless communications device is placed in a premises station cradle, the hand held wireless communications device electrically connects to the communications premises station system. A call processing element of the communications premises stations system exchanges signaling information with the hand held wireless communications device, and converts incoming signals from the hand held wireless communications device to incoming signals to the telephonic device, and converts outgoing signals from the telephonic device to outgoing signals to the handheld wireless communications device. In this manner, when the hand held wireless communications device is placed in the premises station, wireless telephonic calls can be placed from and received by a telephonic device connected to the communications premises stations (Abstract).

As stipulated by the Office Action, Torrey fails to disclose converting call waiting tones, message waiting signals, DTMF tones, flash signals or end of dial signals. Additionally, Torrey fails to disclose or suggest a converter adapted to accept the plurality of cellular telephones, one being a master unit and the others being slave units.

It is respectfully submitted that the cited references do not remedy all of the deficiencies of Torrey.

For example, Tam allegedly discloses a wireline interface permitting a cellular telephone transceiver to originate and receive calls using both cellular and wireline services. The invention of Tam allegedly permits a subscriber unit to operate as a standard cellular telephone when it is disconnected from a land based telephone line and as both a full featured telephone and a full featured cellular telephone when it is connected to a wireline. A wireline interface circuit provides on/off hook, calling identification, and audio signal conversion functions on the wireline signals. A duplexed audio switch permits the audio signals provided to and from a cellular type handset to

be connected to either the cellular transceiver or to the wireline interface adapter, under control of the user. As a result, any handset provided functions, such as speed dialing or hands free operation are available for use when operating on a wireline circuit as well as when operating on a cellular radio link.

The Office Action relies on Tam for disclosure of converting call waiting tones received from a cellular telephone unit into signals compatible with land line service for use by land line based telephones. However, Tam does not disclose or suggest converting call waiting tones. Instead, Tam discloses a handset that is compatible with both cellular and wireline services. The handset of Tam does not first generate a cellular call waiting signal that is then converted to a wireline call waiting signal. Instead, it is respectfully submitted that Tam discloses that if a wireline call is in progress when a cellular call is received, a wireline call waiting signal is generated directly. Furthermore, the call waiting sound generated in the handset of Tam is not delivered to wireline devices connected to the handset of Tam. Instead, the sound is provided only to the handset of Tam (column 9, lines 4-52).

LaDue allegedly discloses a method for seamlessly transmitting application specific messages over cellular radio system control channels and switches.

The Office Action relies on LaDue for disclosure of converting message waiting tones received from a cellular telephone unit into signals compatible with land line service for use by land line based telephone units.

However, LaDue provides no such disclosure. Instead, it is respectfully submitted that the referenced section of LaDue merely explains two normal uses of Remote Feature Control Request messages. LaDue explains that Remote Feature Control Requests are used to allow a cellular user to determine if messages are available on a home cellular system of the cellular user. Alternatively, LaDue explains that Remote Feature Control Requests can be used to determine that a cellular subscriber wishes that land line calls to his home or office be forwarded or routed to his cellular phone. Remote Feature Control Request messages are call processing messages exchanged between communications network components such as Mobile Switching Centers and Home Location Registers.

Manning allegedly discloses an interface device for faxing documents over a wireless network that includes circuitry for emulating the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) for communicating with an analog fax machine. The Office Action relies on Manning for disclosure of converting DTMF signals received from land line

based telephone units to signals compatible with cellular telephone service.

Berkowitz allegedly discloses a method and apparatus to minimize dialing and connection delays in a Wireless Local Loop system.

The Office Action relies on Berkowitz for disclosure of converting flash signals received from land line based telephone units to signals compatible with cellular telephone service for use by a cellular telephone and for disclosure of converting "end of dial" signals received from land line based telephone units to signals compatible with cellular telephone service for use by a cellular telephone. However, it is respectfully submitted that Berkowitz does not disclose or suggest a cellular telephone.

Instead, Berkowitz discloses Fixed Subscriber Units (FSU) for use in a Wireless Local Loop (WLL) system. A WLL system is designed to connect a subscriber to the telephone network using wireless methods. These systems may use an FSU to connect a conventional telephone to the network using wireless means (column 1, lines 21-27). However, it is respectfully submitted that not all wireless means are cellular telephones and that Berkowitz does not disclose or suggest converting signals from those compatible with wireline systems to those compatible with cellular systems. For example, it is respectfully submitted that cellular systems do not use DTMF tones to communicate dialed directory numbers. However, in the system of Berkowitz if dialing is in the form of DTMF tones, the DTMF tones are transmitted through the newly available transmission path between the FSU **107** and the LE **101**. The LE **101** is able to receive and interpret dialed digits and provide appropriate call progress tones or other responses (column 3, lines 59-67).

Bannister allegedly discloses a method and apparatus for wireless trunking to private branch exchanges. In the system of Bannister, radio units responsive to a paging signal seize a trunk to connect wireless calls to a telephone apparatus serviced by a private branch exchange. The radio units can each respond to a different set of mobile identification numbers, or can be configured in a master slave arrangement or can employ sub-addressing (Abstract).

The Office Action asserts that Bannister discloses a plurality of cellular telephone units, one being a master unit and the others being slave units. However, it is respectfully submitted that Bannister does not disclose a plurality of cellular telephone units, one being a master unit and the others being slave units. Instead, Bannister discloses a plurality of Radio Units (RU). Unlike cellular phones, radio units include a plurality 212 of mobile identification numbers and include radio to trunk interfaces **210**.

Additionally, even if the radio units (701-1)-(701-N) referenced by the Office Action are considered to be cellular telephone units. They are not included in a system operative to convert between cellular signals and wireline signals. Instead, the system of FIG. 7, referenced by the Office Action, completes calls to corresponding wireless sets 718 (column 9, lines 33-35).

The Claims are Not Anticipated

Claims 1-3, 11-14 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Torrey. However, **claims 1, 12, 13, 14 and 22** have been cancelled.

Claims 2, 3 and 11 have been amended to depend from **claim 4**.

For at least the foregoing reasons, **claims 2, 3 and 11** are not anticipated by Torrey.

The Claims are Not Obvious

Claims 4 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Torrey in view of Tam. In explaining these rejections the Office Action stipulates that Torrey fails to disclose converting call waiting tones received from a cellular telephone unit into signals compatible with land line service for use by land line based telephone units. The Office Action relies on Tam for this disclosure.

However, as explained above, Tam does not disclose or suggest a converter for converting signals between a cellular telephone and land line telephones. Instead, Tam discloses a device that is both a cellular phone and a land line phone. As such, Tam does not disclose or suggest first generating a call waiting signal appropriate to a cellular telephone and then converting that signal into a call waiting signal appropriate for a land line based telephone. Instead, Tam simply generates the appropriate signal for the mode in which the device is being operated (column 9, lines 4-52), and does not disclose or suggest converting call waiting tones received from a cellular telephone unit into signals compatible with a land line service for use by a land line based telephone unit.

For at least the foregoing reasons, newly independent **claims 4 and 15**, as well as **claims 2, 3, 9, 10 and 11**, which depend from **claim 4**, and **claims 20, 21 and 31**, which depend from **claim 15**, are unanticipated and are not obvious in light of Torrey and Tam taken alone or in any combination.

Claims 5 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable

over Torrey in view of LaDue. **Claims 5 and 16** have been cancelled. However, the subject matter of **claims 5 and 16** has been included in newly independent **claims 4 and 15**.

In explaining the rejection of this subject matter, the Office Action appears to stipulate that Torrey fails to disclose message waiting tones received from a cellular telephone unit being converted into signals compatible with land line service for use by a land line based telephone unit. However, the Office Action asserts that LaDue discloses message waiting tones received from a cellular telephone unit being converted into signals compatible with land line service for use by a landline based telephone unit. In support of this assertion, the Office Action directs the attention of the Applicant to column 10, lines 1-6 of LaDue.

However, as explained above, the referenced portion of LaDue merely describes two reasons why a Mobile Switching Center might transmit a Remote Feature Control Request message. It is respectfully submitted that the referenced section of LaDue explains that when a mobile service's subscriber makes a query as to whether messages are pending for the subscriber, a Mobile Switching Center sends a Remote Feature Control Request message to a home cellular system of the subscriber. LaDue also explains that Remote Feature Control Request messages can be used to determine whether a subscriber wishes calls to a landline phone to be automatically forwarded or routed to a mobile phone of the subscriber. It is respectfully submitted that nothing in the referenced section or anywhere else in LaDue discloses or suggests converting a message waiting tone received from a cellular telephone into signals compatible with landline service for use by a land line telephone unit.

For at least these reasons, the subject matter from **claims 5 and 16** now included in newly independent **claims 4 and 15**, is unanticipated and is not obvious in light of Torrey and LaDue taken alone or in any combination and for these additional reasons, **claims 4 and 15**, as well as **claims 2, 3, 9, 10 and 11**, which depend from **claim 4**, and **claims 20, 21 and 31**, which depend from **claim 15**, are unanticipated and are not obvious in light of Torrey, Tam and LaDue taken alone or in any combination.

Claims 6 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Torrey in view of Manning. **Claim 6** has been amended to depend from **Claim 4**. **Claim 17** has been cancelled.

For at least the foregoing reasons, **claim 6** is unanticipated and is not obvious in

light of Torrey and Manning taken alone or in any combination.

Claims 7, 8, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Torrey in view of Berkowitz. **Claims 7 and 18** have been placed in independent form and have been further amended to include the subject matter of **claims 8 and 19** respectively.

In explaining the rejection of **claims 7, 8, 18 and 19**, the Office Action stipulates that Torrey fails to disclose converting a flash signal or an end of dial signal received from a landline based telephone unit to signals compatible with cellular telephone service for use by a cellular telephone unit. The Office Action relies on Berkowitz for such disclosure. However, as explained above, Berkowitz does not disclose or suggest converting signals to or from those compatible with cellular telephone service. Instead, Berkowitz discloses a Fixed Subscriber Unit (FSU) that connects a wireline telephone to a Local Exchange Carrier (LEC) via a Wireless Local Loop (WLL) system. It is respectfully submitted that a Wireless Local Loop system is not a cellular system and any conversions described by Berkowitz are not to signals compatible with cellular telephone service for use by a cellular telephone unit.

For at least the foregoing reasons, newly independent **claims 7 and 18** as well as **claims 23, 24 and 27-30**, which depend from **claim 7**, and **claims 25, 26 and 32**, which depend from **claim 18** are unanticipated and are not obvious in light of Torrey and Berkowitz taken alone or in any combination.

Claims 9, 10, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Torrey in view of Bannister. **Claim 9** has been amended to depend from **Claim 4**. **Claim 20** has been amended to depend from **Claim 15**.

Additionally, in explaining the rejection of **claims 9 and 20**, the Office Action stipulates that Torrey fails to disclose a plurality of cellular telephone units, one being a master, and the others being slave units. In this regard, the Office Action relies on Bannister and asserts that Bannister discloses a plurality of cellular telephone units, one being a master and the others being slave units. In support of this assertion, the Office Action directs the attention to Figure 7, reference numerals (701-1)-(701-N) as well as column 9, lines 24-43 and the abstract of Bannister.

However, as explained above, reference numerals (701-1)-(701-N) of Figure 7 refer to Radio Units (RU) and not to cellular telephone units as disclosed and claimed in the present application. Furthermore, Radio Units (701-1)-(701-N) are not included and do not disclose or suggest a system wherein signals are converted between cellular and

wireline or landline compatible forms.

For at least the foregoing reasons, **claims 9 and 20**, as well as **claims 10 and 21**, which depend respectively therefrom, are unanticipated and are not obvious in light of Torrey and Bannister taken alone or in any combination.

New **claims 23, 24, 27, 28, 29 and 30** depend from **claim 7** and are unanticipated and are not obvious for at least those reasons.

New **claims 25 and 26** depend from **claim 18** and are unanticipated and are not obvious for at least those reasons. New **claims 23-30** are supported throughout the specification and recite subject matter similar to that recited in original **claims 9, 10, 20, 21, 2, 3, 6 and 11** respectively. Arguments similar to those submitted in support of **claims 9, 10, 20, 21, 2, 3, 6 and 11** are submitted in support of **claims 23-30**.

For at least the foregoing additional reasons, **claims 23-30** are unanticipated and are not obvious in light of Torrey, Tam, LaDue, Manning, Berkowitz and Bannister taken alone or in any combination.

New **claims 31 and 32** depend from **claims 15 and 18** respectively and are unanticipated and are not obvious for at least those reasons.

New **claims 31 and 32** are supported throughout the specification and both new **claims 31 and 32** include subject matter originally recited in **claims 13 and 14**.

Telephone Interview

In the interests of advancing this application to issue the Applicant(s) respectfully request that the Examiner telephone the undersigned to discuss the foregoing or any suggestions that the Examiner may have to place the case in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9-11, 15, 18, 20, 21 remain in the application. **Claims 1, 5, 8, 12-14, 16, 17, 22** have been canceled. **Claims 23-32** have been added. For the reasons detailed above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance. An early indication thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,
MINNICH & McKEE, LLP

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Date

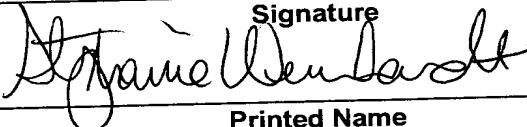


Joseph D. Dreher
Reg. No. 37,123
Thomas Tillander
Reg. No. 47,334
1100 Superior Avenue
7th Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-2579
(216) 861-5582

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